

BRACKER, LEONE
Choi Splitter, Gettysburg

DRAWER 19A

Artists-B

71. 2009. 085. 02263

Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Leone Bracker

Rail splitter and Gettysburg

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Bracker's Charcoal Drawings

In the late fall of 1933 The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company commissioned M. Leon Bracker of Ipswich, Massachusetts, to produce four charcoal poster drawings depicting interesting episodes in the life of Lincoln. The insurance company at that time was engaged in a billboard advertising campaign, and Bracker was selected because of his exceptional work as a poster artist.


During World War I Bracker executed a number of patriotic posters for the United States Government, and his "Home Loan" poster is still remembered by those who work in poster art. He knew how to handle charcoal, knew all of its light and shade possibilities, its wealth and power of expression.

Bracker was born in Cleveland, Ohio, about 1890 and studied art in Cleveland, Chicago and New York. Leaving art school as a young man he worked for a while for a New York weekly newspaper. Upon discovering that as a freelance artist he could not compete with old-time professionals, and not being able to set up a conventional type studio immediately, he became a charcoal poster artist. He had ideas, and knew how to dramatize a situation or a scene or an incident - or an individual.

As Abraham Lincoln had always been his ideal, Bracker came to Fort Wayne in November, 1933 with a great deal of enthusiasm for his project. Dr. Louis A. Warren, the director of the Foundation, assisted him in every way possible in the collection of photographs and background material, and even accompanied him to Kentucky and the Lincoln country in his search for the proper historical locality as well as for a native Kentuckian or Hoosier who might pose as the young Lincoln.

The artist was well received in Hodgenville. He found a storeroom where he could make sketches, but most important of all, he found a young man named Marvin Enlow who had all of the physical characteristics of a young Abe Lincoln. Young Enlow was 6 ft. 4 in. tall and resembled Lincoln in a striking number of ways. Bracker intended to spend considerable time in Hodgenville, but upon hearing that Judge Charles E. Bull, then a well known impersonator of the Sixteenth President, was leaving Chicago for his home in Nevada, he immediately rushed to Chicago. Bull had been making appearances at the Chicago World's Fair (Century of Progress) and the season was about over.

The artist's visits to the Lincoln Country and Chicago were most rewarding, and on November 25, he wrote Dr. Warren from his home, "Fair Vista," at Ipswich, Massachusetts:



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library

<http://archive.org/details/artistsofabrahablinc>

"Dear Dr. Warren:

I have your letter telling me the material will be forwarded to me from Hodgenville. ~~(No S in Hodgenville.)~~

I am at work on The Railsplitter picture and need the enlarged Lincoln portrait.

I planned to draw at Hodgenville but when I found that Judge Bull was leaving for an indefinite time I rushed to Hodgenville, took over a hundred photographic studies of Marvin Enlow and also some studies (drawings) of him.

I really have fine material for this picture.

He is a fine figure in his buckskins.

I believe our young Lincoln will be really acceptable and welcome by Lincoln Lovers.

Judge Bull is uncanny in his physical resemblance. I got a lot of help from him for the Gettysburg picture.

I did not get the mother and child as I hoped to. But I just felt it the wiser to get Judge Bull when I could.

I did not get a chance to see Judge Mather.

I would appreciate it if you would send me his name and initials that I may write to him explaining.

Also I may still go back. Mr. Kirkpatrick owner of the general store let me use his store for our posing.

Also another Kirkpatrick whom you introduced me to across from the court house helped me so much.

Yours must have been a fine round of service to have left such loyal friends in Hodgenville.

Thanks for the personal photographs of our trip. It was a privilege to have you for host and guide.

I will never forget the spirit of those mountains in which the boy Lincoln grew and which you showed to me.

Sincerely

Leon Bracker."

The railsplitter picture was really conceived in the mind of the artist while he wandered around the environs of Hodgenville and the Lincoln birthplace farm. In company with Dr. Warren and not far distant from the birthplace cabin, Bracker saw a boy chopping wood in front of a little log cabin. To the artist the boy looked as Lincoln might have looked - tall,

sinewy and powerful for his age. Of course, the sketches of Marvin Enlow provided the physical details. Behind the boy, like a fade-out in a motion picture, may be seen dimly a large portrait of Lincoln overspreading the hills.

Back home at Ipswich, Bracker began work on his drawing of Lincoln at Gettysburg, using his sketches of Judge Bull. He worried considerably about Lincoln's hands, and one day he saw his friend and neighbor, Michael Ryan, an old resident of Ipswich, wield an axe while chopping wood. Upon examining Ryan's hands, he discovered they were just the hands he wanted for Lincoln, fine sensitive hands.

Then there was a crowd of listeners to be drawn into the Gettysburg picture and Bracker remembered that the native people around the North Shore reminded him of the people who lived when Lincoln lived. They were of the same stock, so in this picture, Bracker introduced some of the townspeople of Ipswich, draped in costumes of the period. One person in particular was William Barton who is dressed as a Union officer. He still resides in Ipswich, Massachusetts.

All the while, the charcoal artist was considerably concerned in his efforts to find the ideal woman who could pose as Nancy Hanks - Lincoln's mother. Bracker wanted to put Nancy and her son inside the little Kentucky cabin - depicting her teaching Abe to read and write. In Lucy Blake^(nee Bailey) of Ipswich he found the type

he wanted. She is a descendant of pioneers, of the same stock as the Lincolns. The careful observer will also discover Lucy Blake (Nancy Hanks) in the audience which Lincoln is addressing at Gettysburg. Just recently the Foundation has supplied Mrs. Blake with photographs of the mother and son drawing for her eight grandchildren. The boy who posed as Lincoln in the mother and son study, is Napoleon Beaulieu who now resides in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

The fourth charcoal drawing required very little historical research. It is a type of visionary picture of Lincoln looking beyond the holocaust of the Civil War into the sunlight of the future. Perhaps the most objectional feature of this drawing is the man and wife, with their son, dressed in the style of 1934 looking at Lincoln with admiration. This family group definitely dates the drawing.

All four of the drawings, two of which measure approximately 6 by 3½ feet, and two of which measure approximately 5 by 4 feet, are signed "M. Leone Bracker, 1934." The artist thinking in terms of reproduction for billboards pieced together the art board on which his charcoal pictures would appear. While these sections do not show up in the reproductive process, the seams are noticeable under their glass frames as they hang in a corridor of the building.

Once the drawings were completed and all had been delivered to the home office of the Lincoln National, Bracker on March 19, 1934 wrote to Dr. Warren as follows:

"I was glad to hear from you



I was sorry not to find you in Fort Wayne when I brought the last pictures.

You were a real part in the making of these Lincoln pictures and I am glad to so declare.

I hope they may accomplish all we hope for them.

The write up in the Boston Post of the father⁽²⁾ of Lincoln with the two illustrations I thought very good.

Tomorrow I will return to ^{view} the data you sent out and thanks for same.

I regret that I was not able to be at the dedication. I was in bed for several weeks after and tho well must still wear a brace for a month yet.

If in any way I can help just know I want to.

I do hope you will find use for those pictures in small sizes fit for framing.

With my good wishes to you all

Sincerely

Leone Bracker"

Not only were the drawings used successfully for the billboard advertising project, but they appeared in national magazines, on calendars, on blotters, on circulars and for other miscellaneous needs of the company. Then, too, the original drawing added four new Lincoln pictures to the Foundation's collection. On February 12, 1934 some of the drawings that were finished were unveiled and appropriate recognition was

given to both the drawings and the artist.

On August 26, 1937 Bracker accidentally met his death at Rye Beach, New Hampshire. On this tragic day he was on a picnic with his wife and two daughters along the rocky shore. Reports say that he fell by accident into the surf and was drowned.

Charcoal

by

2

M Leone

Box 100

★ WE CAN ONLY GO FORWARD ★

The LINCOLN
NATIONAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

FORM 2345-B

★ AND FOR THE PEOPLE ★

The LINCOLN
NATIONAL
LIFE INSURANCE CO.
FORT WAYNE

FORM 2345-A

ALL...I OWE TO MY MOTHER!

A. Lincoln

The LINCOLN
NATIONAL
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

ITS NAME
INDICATES ITS
CHARACTER

FORM 2345



PHOTOCOPY
(original in safe)



THE RAILSPLITTER - - BRACKER

There were thousands of railsplitters in the Indiana Wilderness in pioneer days, although but one of them seems to personify more than his contemporaries, the spirit of industry that cleared the forest. Abraham Lincoln will always be known as The Railsplitter and this sobriquet will always be associated with the youth who emerged from the wilderness to occupy the White House.

Leone Bracker has revealed the transition in an interesting study.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
5712 S. DICKINSON AVE.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637
TEL. 733-2400
FAX 733-2400
WWW.PHYSICS.DUKE.EDU

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

5712 S. DICKINSON AVE.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637



after 8:00 (1951) - 1900 to 1900

1900 to 1900 (1951)

1900 to 1900 (1951)

3
1
1

LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG -- BRACKER

The address of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg has been called one of the three outstanding orations in the Anglo-Saxon tongue. It is not strange that artists especially interested in portraying the high points of Lincoln's life would turn to Gettysburg as one of the major episodes of his career.

Leone Bracker has given us one of the finest of these interpretations.

WEDNESDAY

1870

1870

1870

1870

1870

1870

1870

1870

1870

1870

1870

1870

1870



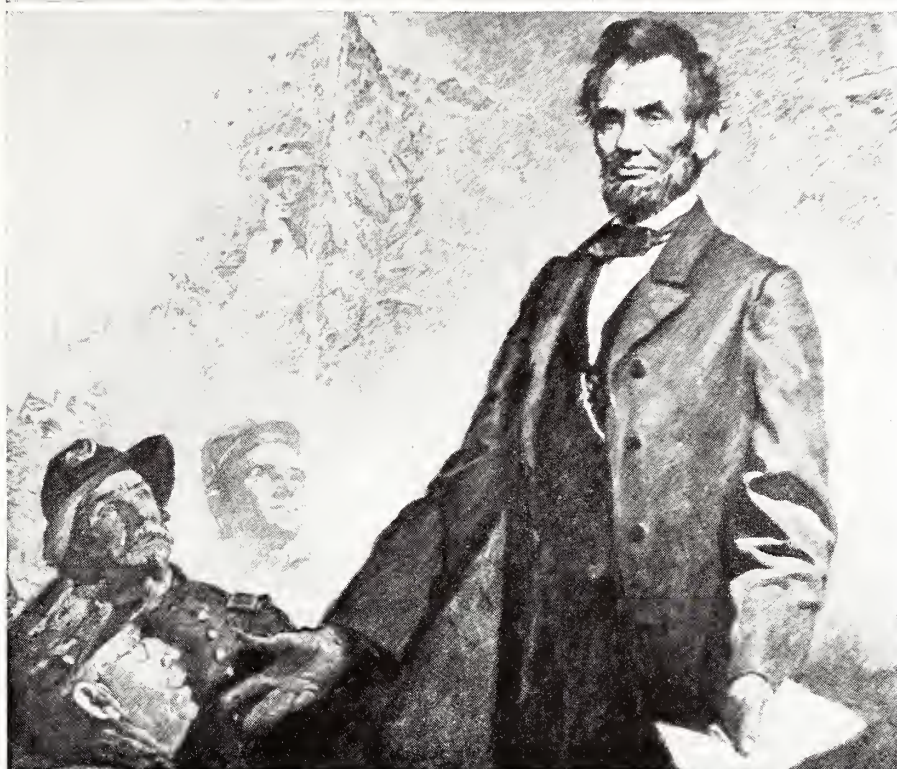
→ 6 1/2 ←

← 8 3/4" →

© 1934 LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE INS. CO.







THEY SHALL NOT PERISH—

Seventy-five years ago, November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address

IT WAS LINCOLN'S immortal prayer at Gettysburg that this Nation "shall not perish from the earth".

Every father, deep in his heart, makes the same silent prayer for his little family. Wise fathers do all in their power to make this practical desire come true. They know that through the Lincoln National Life Salary Continuance Plan they can guarantee their family's financial security. This plan, should anything happen to you, pays your wife a regular monthly "salary" during the first difficult years of readjustment. Enables her to keep the children together. To educate them. It also pays *you* a regular "salary" for life should you live to retirement age. *And the deposits are modest.* Send for details of this unique plan. Mail the coupon today.

More than \$985,000,000 Insurance in Force

THE LINCOLN  NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY

FORT WAYNE, IND.

ITS NAME INDICATES ITS CHARACTER

MAIL THIS COUPON

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
Fort Wayne, Indiana, Dept. T-11

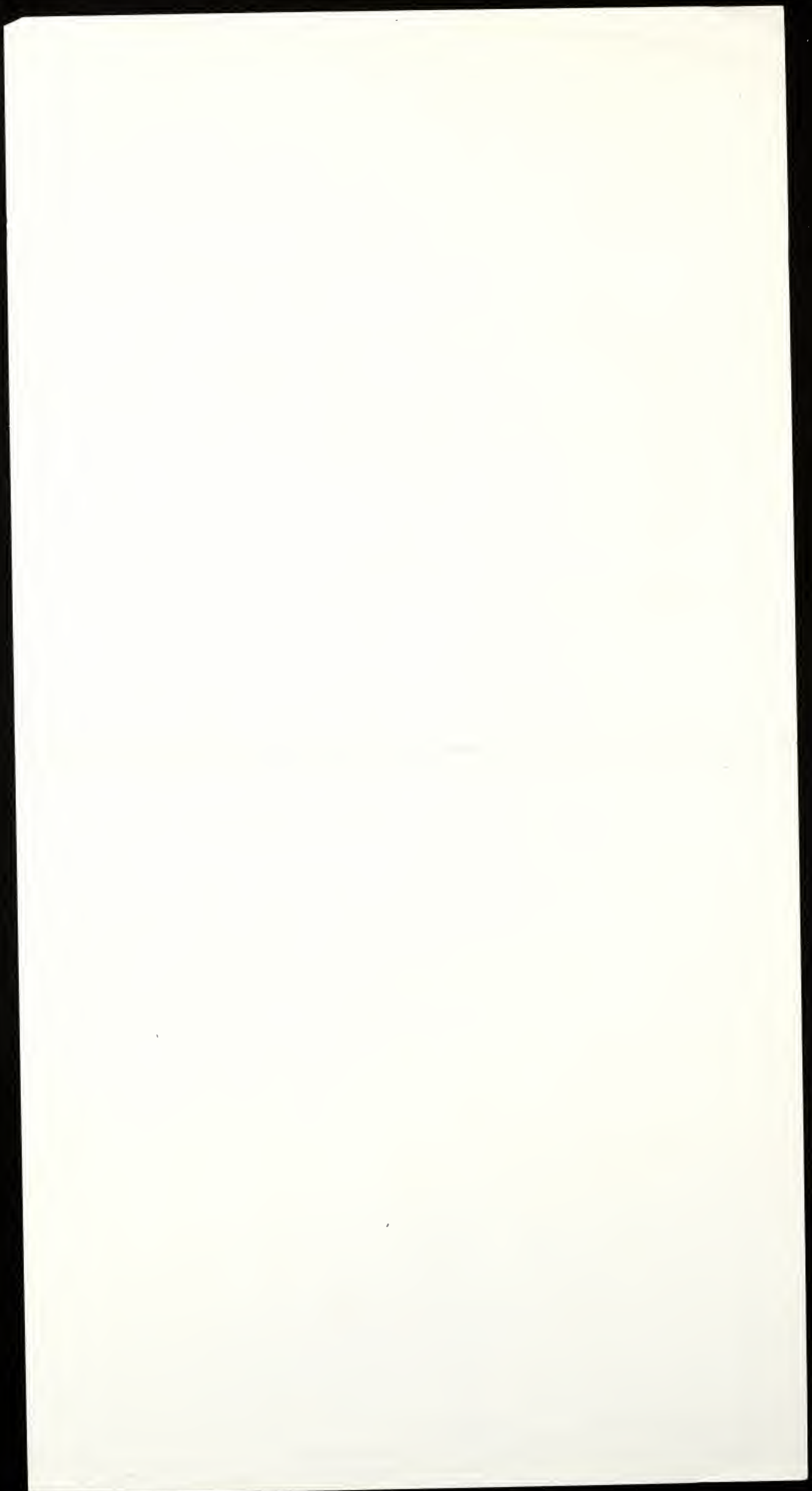
Please send me full details about your Salary Continuance Plan which provides monthly income for my family or myself.

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Present Age _____

Reprinted from the November 21st issue of
Time Magazine





© L. N. L. 1934

"AND FOR THE PEOPLE!" . .

A WAY TO FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

You plan for security in old age. The Lincoln National Life with years of experience can help you reach this goal.

Decision and thrift on your part plus the *Five Star Annuity* will guarantee you a life income with retirement starting at any age from 50 to 70. In the meantime, until retirement age, your dependents have

the pledged financial security of life insurance.

The plan can be started today on your present income. Its flexibility makes it desirable for the man on salary, in business, or in the professions. As conditions improve, the plan can be adjusted to provide increased income or earlier retirement.

"Lincoln at Gettysburg"

From an original drawing by M. Leone Bracker for The Lincoln National Life. Sepia reproduction suitable for framing sent upon request.

You can secure more information about this plan by addressing a letter to our home office giving your name, residence and age. Copies of both booklets, illustrated below, will be sent to you without obligation.

The LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE

INSURANCE COMPANY

Fort Wayne, Indiana

ITS NAME INDICATES ITS CHARACTER

DO YOU KNOW?

—That with the Five Star Annuity your income continues even after you have drawn out all you put in?
—That you protect your family with \$1000 of life insurance for each \$10 of monthly income you buy for yourself?
—That your choice of a retirement age can be made now or at any later date?

—There are five different Gettysburg addresses—all written in Lincoln's own hand?
—That a stolen horse caused Lincoln's only political defeat at the hands of the people?
—An attempt to assassinate President Lincoln on his way to Washington in February, 1861 was foiled by Pinkerton detectives?

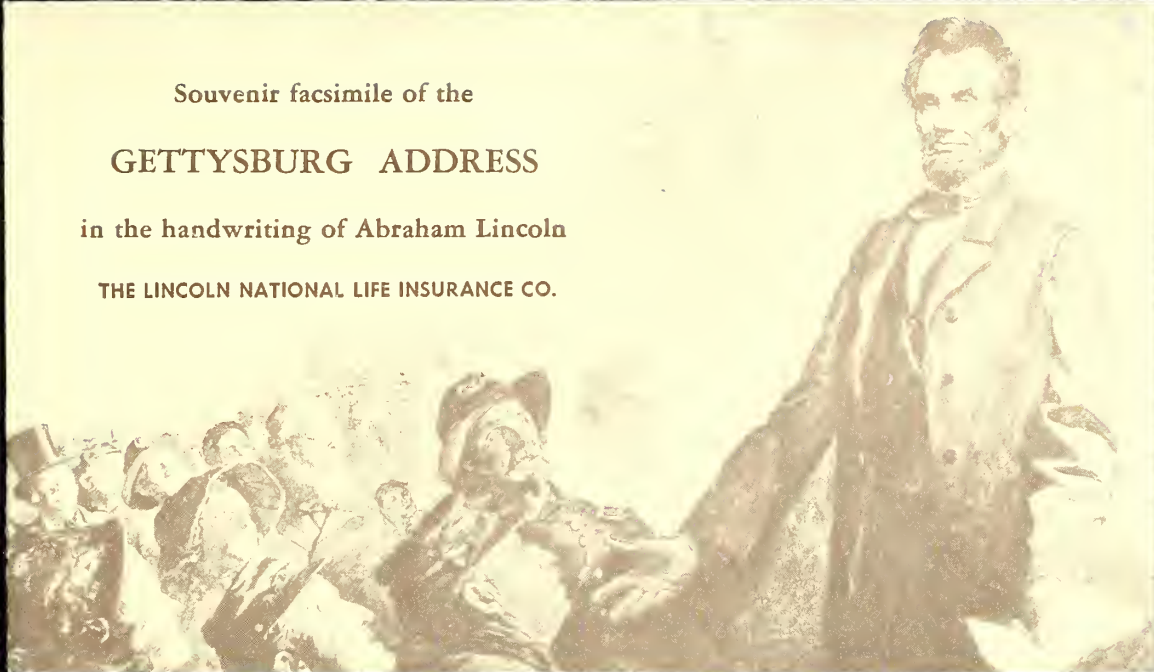


Souvenir facsimile of the

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

in the handwriting of Abraham Lincoln

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.



FORM 7828-56

Address delivered at the dedication of the
Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth on this continent, a new na-
tion, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated
to the proposition that all men are cre-
ated equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war;
testing whether that nation, or any nation
so conceived and so dedicated, can long
endure. We are met on a great battle-field
of that war. We have come to dedicate a
portion of that field, as a final resting
place for those who here gave their lives,
that that nation might live. It is alto-
gether fitting and proper that we should
do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedi-
cate—we can not consecrate—we can not
hallow—this ground. The brave men, liv-
ing and dead, who struggled here have con-
secrated it, far above our poor power to add
or detract. The world will little note, nor
long remember what we say here, but it can
never forget what they did here. It is for as
the living, rather, to be dedicated here to
the unfinished work which they who fought
here have thus far so nobly advanced.
It is rather for us to be here dedicated to
the great task remaining before us,—that
from these honored dead we take increased
devotion to that cause for which they gave
the last full measure of devotion—that
we here highly resolve that these dead shall
not have died in vain—that this nation,
under God, shall have a new birth of free-
dom—and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not per-
ish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln.

November 19. 1863.

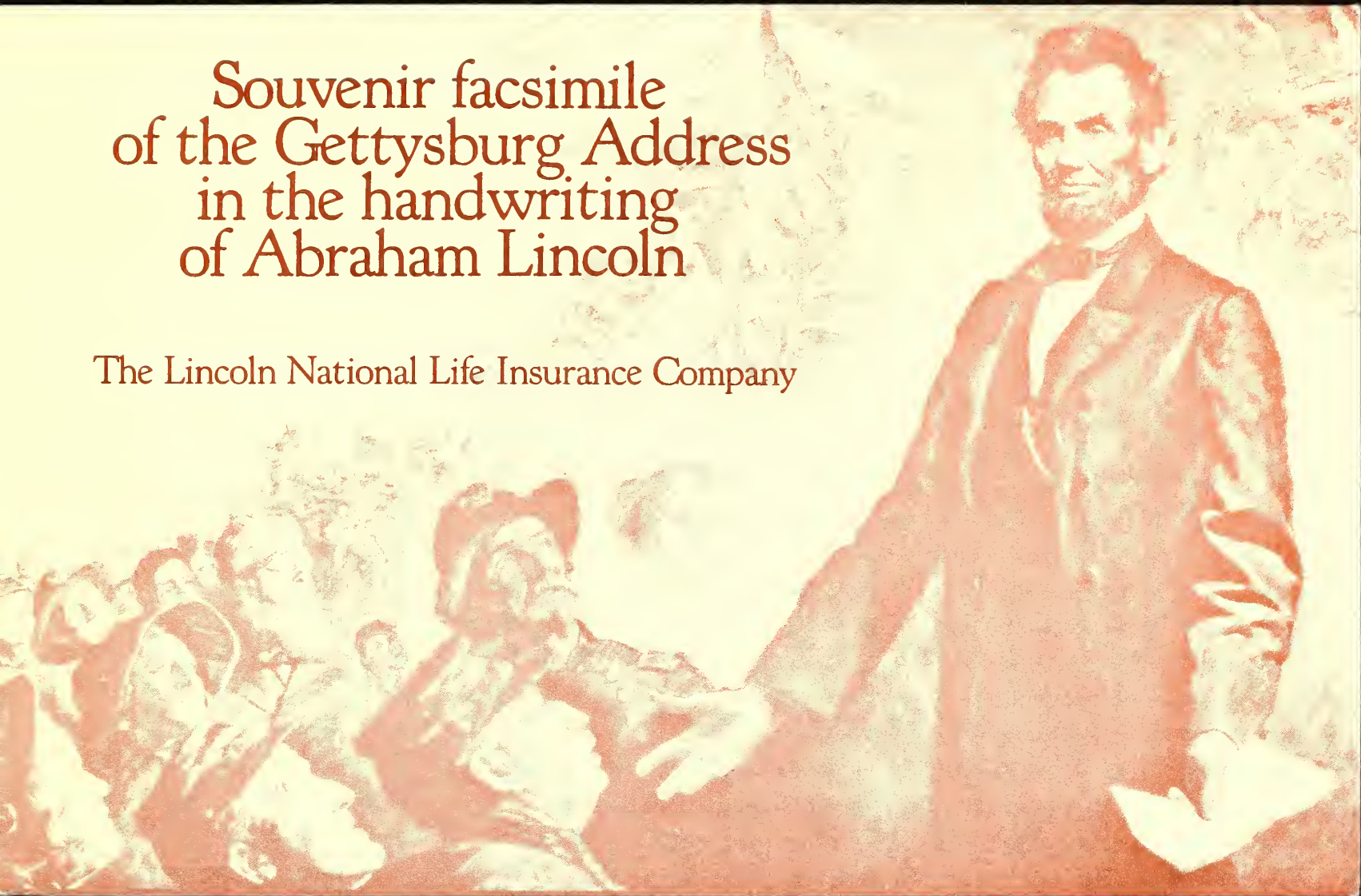
Five different original versions of the Gettysburg Address are extant. This version of thirty-seven lines was first reproduced in 1864 in a volume entitled "Autograph Leaves of Our Country's Authors." It represents President Lincoln's final judgment as to the content of the address. It is generally known as the Fifth Draft, but it is sometimes designated as "the standard version." At an auction sale held on April 27, 1949, Oscar B. Cintas of Havana, Cuba, purchased the draft for \$54,000.

The so-called First and Second Drafts of twenty-nine lines and thirty-three lines respectively are the property of the Library of Congress. The Third Draft of thirty-one lines is the property of The Illinois State Historical Library and the Fourth Draft of thirty-one lines has been acquired by Cornell University.

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Souvenir facsimile
of the Gettysburg Address
in the handwriting
of Abraham Lincoln

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company



FORM 7828-66

Albion 2-11-10
Gottlieb, Wm. H.

debtless deliverance at the dedication of the
temple at getting up.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth on this continent, a new na-
tion, conceived in liberty, and dedicated
to the proposition that all men are cre-
ated equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether that nation, or any nation
so conceived and so dedicated, can long
endure. We are met on a great battlefield
of that war. We have come to dedicate a
portion of that field, as a final resting
place for those who here gave their lives
that that nation might live. It is alto-
gether fitting and proper that we should
do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedi-
cate — we can not consecrate — we can not
hallow — this ground. The brave men, liv-

ing and dead, who struggled here have con-
secrated it, far above our poor power to add
or detract. The world will little note, nor
long remember what we say here, but it can
never forget what they did here. It is for us
the living, rather, to be dedicated here to
the unfinished work which they who here
gave have thus far so nobly advanced.
It is rather for us to be here dedicated to
the great task remaining before us — that
from these honored dead we take increased
devotion to that cause for which they gave
the last full measure of devotion — that
we here highly resolve that these dead shall
not have died in vain — that this nation
under God, shall have a new birth of free-
dom — and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not per-
ish from the earth.

November 19, 1863.

Abraham Lincoln.

Five different original versions of the Gettysburg Address are extant. The version of thirty-two lines was first reproduced in 1863 in a volume entitled "Autograph Leaves of Our Country's Authors." It is presumed that President Lincoln had final judgment as to the content of the address. It is generally known as the Fifth Draft, but it is sometimes designated as the "second original." At an auction sale held on April 27, 1945, Oscar W. Cintas of Havana, Cuba, purchased the draft for \$54,000 which he willed to the people of the United States. It now hangs in the Lincoln Room of the White House.

The so-called First and Second Drafts of twenty-nine lines and thirty-three lines respectively are the property of the Library of Congress. Third Draft, the Edward Everett copy, is the property of The Illinois State Historical Library, and Cornell University owns the Fourth Draft, the George Bancroft copy. Both, the Third and Fourth Drafts, contain thirty-one lines.





The Pledge of a Patriot

M. LEONE
BRACKER
1926



BRACKER, LEONIE
Chor. Splitter, Gethysburg

DRAWER 197

Artist-B

